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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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SIX-MONTH RAIL TRAFFIC
REFLECTS IMPACT OF RECESSION

WASHINGTON, July 3, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U. S. railroads during the first half of 1980 totaled an estimated 463 billion ton-miles, 3.8 percent above the comparable period of 1979, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

After posting a 9.7 percent ton-mile gain over the first quarter of last year in the first three months of 1980, estimated ton-miles in the second quarter trailed 1979 by 3.9 percent.

Carloadings during the first six months of the year totaled 11,482,950, 3.1 percent lower than in 1979. Compared with last year, 16 of the 21 commodity groups declined as a result of the economic slump. However, coal loadings for the 6-month period totaled 2,843,146 cars, 12.8 percent higher than the first half of 1979 and the highest of any comparable period since 1957. Loadings of grain posted a 17.5 percent gain due to a strong first quarter. For the second quarter, grain loadings were 1.6 percent lower than in 1979.

The sharpest decline during the six-month period was in motor vehicles and equipment, down 29.9 percent from 1979. Seven other major commodity groups had declines in excess of 10 percent. Piggyback traffic, after 25 weeks, was 8.6 percent below the 1979 level.

Ton-miles for the week ended June 28 totaled 18.4 billion, 7.7 percent below the corresponding week of 1979. Total carloadings were 12.0 percent lower than the previous year, although loadings of coal posted an 8.6 percent gain.

Piggyback

Piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended June 21 totaled 31,484 cars, down 18.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 58,469 trailers and/or containers, 15.0 percent lower than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 6/28/80:

	Loadings in Week ended June 28, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,291	I	44	0.1	I	973	3.3
Other farm products	4,755	D	449	8.6	I	63	1.3
Metallic ores	33,839	D	7,096	17.3	D	1,178	3.4
Coal	117,333	I	9,318	8.6	D	3,098	2.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,986	D	5,075	25.3	D	16	0.1
Nonmetallic minerals	16,869	I	727	4.5	D	392	2.3
Grain mill products	17,215	D	1,307	7.1	I	857	5.2
Food and kindred products	18,689	D	891	4.6	I	713	4.0
Primary forest products	20,362	D	1,479	6.8	D	335	1.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,233	D	4,263	31.6	I	128	1.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,897	D	1,480	6.3	I	1,315	6.4
Chemicals and allied products	24,624	D	4,691	16.0	D	453	1.8
Petroleum products	5,420	D	1,548	22.2	I	43	0.8
Stone, clay and glass products	14,941	D	5,422	26.6	I	205	1.4
Coke	4,162	D	3,886	48.3	D	592	12.5
Metals and products	15,035	D	7,548	33.4	I	912	6.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,199	D	8,737	36.5	D	651	4.1
Waste and scrap materials	10,243	D	5,600	35.3	D	339	3.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,993	D	3,162	22.3	I	657	6.4
All other carloads	43,185	D	8,413	16.3	I	2,088	5.1
LCL traffic	200	D	258	56.3	I	4	2.0
Total Cars Loaded	449,471	D	61,216	12.0	I	904	0.2
Corresponding week of 1979	510,687						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (26 weeks)	11,482,950	11,852,168	D	3.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
25 weeks cumulative	444.8	426.5	I	4.3
Week ended June 28	18.4	19.9	D	7.7
26 Weeks Cumulative	463.2	446.4	I	3.8

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for 26 weeks of 1980 and 1979:

	1980	1979		Incr. or Decr. vs. 1980	Incr. or Decr. vs. 1979
	Cars	Cars		Cars	Percent
Grain	737,983	628,305	I	109,678	17.5
Other farm products	111,359	107,453	I	3,906	3.6
Metallic ores	752,674	813,798	D	61,124	7.5
Coal	2,843,146	2,520,933	I	322,213	12.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	359,379	411,926	D	52,547	12.8
Nonmetallic minerals	379,977	372,136	I	7,841	2.1
Grain mill products	448,742	459,563	D	10,821	2.4
Food and kindred products	473,899	477,072	D	3,173	0.7
Primary forest products	515,160	530,882	D	15,722	3.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	243,721	308,436	D	64,715	21.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	552,067	550,005	I	2,062	0.4
Chemicals and allied products	724,636	769,703	D	45,067	5.9
Petroleum products	156,801	175,973	D	19,172	10.9
Stone, clay and glass products	399,384	469,033	D	69,649	14.8
Coke	156,032	193,732	D	37,700	19.5
Metals and products	449,588	519,130	D	69,542	13.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	452,201	645,422	D	193,221	29.9
Waste and scrap materials	334,215	367,294	D	32,879	9.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	285,128	322,522	D	37,394	11.6
All other carloads	1,100,929	1,197,704	D	96,775	8.1
LCL traffic	5,729	11,146	D	5,417	48.6
TOTAL Cars Loaded	11,482,950	11,852,168	D	369,218	3.1

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